

4. A Synopsis of the Meliphagine Genus *Myzomela*, with Descriptions of two new Species. By W. A. FORBES, F.Z.S.

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(Plates XXIV. & XXV.)

The genus *Myzomela*¹ was instituted by Messrs. Vigors and Horsfield in their paper on Australian birds in the Linnean Society's 'Transactions' for 1826 (vol. xv. p. 316, note), *Myzomela sanguinolenta*, Lath. (for *M. cardinalis*, Gm. apud Vig. & Horsf. l. c., is clearly not that species, but the smaller Australian one), being the type.

Lesson (Traité d'Orn. p. 298) in 1831 established a "sous-genre" *Phylidonyris*, in which were included *Certhia sanguinolenta*, *Cinnyris rubrater*, and *Cinnyris eques*; but this name must be, as he himself observes, regarded as merely a synonym of *Myzomela*.

Reichenbach in 1851 (Handb. d. spec. Orn. p. 283) made *Cinnyris eques* the type of a new genus *Cosmeteira*, which he included amongst the Nectariniidæ, its dull colours, with no metallic gloss, being apparently the chief reason for the separation. This species, however, in tongue, bill, feet, and, in fact, in all points is a true *Myzomela*, though it has been included amongst the Nectariniidæ till within the last few years by most writers.

On similar grounds of divergent coloration, Bonaparte separated *M. pectoralis*² under the name *Cissomela* (C. R. xxxviii. p. 264, 1854); but as no generic characters whatever are given, this name falls to the ground, even if any structural differences in the bird exist, which as yet I have been unable to discover.

Myzomela is characterized by its Meliphagine tongue, rather short, narrow, and slender curved bill, which is depressed and broadened at the base, rounded and compressed anteriorly, and there finely serrulated on its cutting margins. The nostrils are linear and curved, extending for almost one third of the length of the bill, and covered in by a conspicuous opercular membrane. The wings are moderately long, the "first"³ primary short, the 3rd to 5th longest

¹ μύζω, I suck in, μέλι, honey; hence *Myzomela*.

² Although Bonaparte expressly states "*Myzomela nigra*, Gould, est pour moi le type du nouveau genre *Cissomela*," yet it is evident from his description, "*Subtus cum uropygio alba, torque pectorali nigro*," that *M. pectoralis* was intended!

³ I have here adopted the system of notation for the remiges generally in use amongst ornithologists. But would it not be better, as is usually done in other cases of serially-repeated homologous organs, to begin counting from the proximal rather than from the distal end of the series? At present, if a bird, for instance a Passerine, be said to have a "long first primary," two things may be meant:—either that the bird has only *nine* primaries, the true "first" (or tenth) being absent, and the (morphologically) "second" (or ninth) being of the ordinary length (as, e. g., a Finch, or *Drepanis*); or that there are *ten* primaries, with the "first" (tenth) fully developed, as is the case in the "Formicarioid" Passeres of Wallace. This ambiguity would be avoided by counting the feathers from the end nearest the humerus; for any Passerine with a long "tenth" primary could then only be a "Formicarioid."



J Smit lth

Hanhart imp

1. MYZOMELA CHLOROPTERA.
2. " RUBROBRUNNEA.
3. " ADOLPHINÆ.





J. Smit del.

Hartart imp

1 MYZOMELA CHERMESINA
2. " SCLATERI



and subequal, the 6th longer than the 7th, which about equals the 2nd. The tarsi are about as long as the bill, rather slender, and covered with 6-7 scales in front, the lower ones being the smallest and transverse. The 2nd and 4th toes are very slender, about equal in length, and shorter than the 3rd. The hallux is unusually stout for the size of the bird. The tail has 12 feathers, is short, and nearly square.

Most of the species have more or less red in their plumage; but this colour is altogether absent in some, and becomes only a slight tint, confined to the margins of the feathers, particularly of the head, wings, and tail, in others. As yet our knowledge of the phases and changes of plumage is by no means perfect. In one group (e. g. in *M. sanguinolenta* and its allies, including *M. nigrita*) the females seem to retain throughout life the brown plumage of immaturity, whilst in others (e. g. *M. nigriventris*, *obscura*, &c.) the adults of each sex are similar. In most cases the first plumage seems to be nearly uniform brown, lighter beneath, with the wing-coverts lighter at the edges, and the quills margined externally with olive-yellow. Throughout the group there is seen a great tendency to retain these markings on the wings, as likewise a white margin on the inner web of the primaries.

The eggs seem to be generally whitish or buff, spotted with darker, red or yellow. According to Gilbert (Gould, Handb. B. A. i. p. 558) *M. nigra*, like many other species of Meliphagidæ, lays only two eggs. The nests are small and cup-shaped, rather flimsily constructed of grass-stems, hair, spiders' webs, &c., and often placed in the fork of a tree or bush.

In their habits the *Myzomela* seem to resemble the other smaller Honeysuckers, frequenting flowering shrubs and trees, not apparently so much for the sake of the nectar of the flowers, as for the insects attracted thereby.

But one or two species of this genus, which is perhaps most nearly allied to *Acanthorhynchus*, but distinguishable by its longer beak and different coloration, were known to the older authors. Bonaparte, in his 'Conspectus' (p. 394, 1850), enumerates 9, one of which, however (*Certhia sanguinea*, Gmel.), is a *Drepanis*, whilst *M. eques* is omitted. Gray (Hand-l. B. i. p. 153, 1869) gives 17, though here again *M. eques* is omitted, being included as "*Cosmeteira eques*" amongst the Nectariinidæ (no. 1337). In the present paper 26 species, including two new ones, are recognized as distinct, besides one other which remains doubtful. Of these 26 species, 24 are known to me autoptically. Of the two which I have not seen, one (*M. lafargii*) is unique in the Paris Museum, the other (*M. rubroincta*) has lately been described from specimens at Leyden by Count Salvadori.

The collection in the British Museum, that made by the 'Chalenger,' and the specimens in the collections of Mr. Selater and Messrs. Salvin and Godman have formed the basis of my present paper. In addition to these I have to thank Canon Tristram, F.R.S., Dr. A. B. Meyer, and Count Salvadori for the very liberal way in which they have lent me valuable series of specimens. To the two

latter, in particular, I am indebted for sending over to me the types of the species described by them from New Guinea and its islands, and several others which I should not otherwise have been able to examine, and for their kind permission to figure any of them. Count Salvadori, too, has sent me some very valuable notes as to the range &c. of the Papuan species; whilst to M. Oustalet I am much obliged for information on the type specimen of *M. lafargii* and on some other points.

The following table will assist in the determination of the 26 valid species. It, however, only holds good for adult birds, and in many cases only for the males, our present imperfect knowledge of many of the species making a table that would have included all stages alike an impossibility.

A. Corpore rubro ornato, aut unicolori.

α. Corpore subtus plus minusve olivacco-griseo aut albicante.

a. Fronte coccineâ.

b. Torque pectorali nullo.

c. Capite et dorso concoloribus.

{	Alis fusco-nigris; abdomine flavido-griseo...	1. <i>sanguinolenta</i> .
	Alis olivaceo-fuscis; abdomine griseo-flavido	2. <i>caldonica</i> .

c'. Capite rubro; dorso fusco 3. *chloroptera*.

b'. Torque pectorali fusco.

{	Abdomine albicante	4. <i>adolphinae</i> .
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{	Abdomine fusco-griseo	5. <i>boiei</i> .
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a'. Fronte nigrâ.

d. Capite suprâ maculâ rubrâ ornato.

e. Gulâ rubrâ.

{	Gutturæ summo nigricante	6. <i>erythrocephala</i> .
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{	Gutturæ croceo-flavo.....	7. <i>vulnerata</i> .
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c'. Gulâ nigrâ 8. *jugularis*.

d'. Capite suprâ omnino nigricante 9. *lafargii*.

β. Corpore subtus dorso concolori.

a. Corpore nigro.

{	Subalaribus albis	10. <i>scateri</i> .
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{	Subalaribus nigris	11. <i>nigrita</i> .
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a'. Corpore griseo-brunneo.

b. Striâ gulari coccineâ 12. *pammclena*.

b'. Striâ gulari nullâ.

{	Capite solum rubro tincto	13. <i>eques</i> .
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{	Alis et caudâ rubro tinctis	14. <i>obscura</i> .
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{	Corpore, alis et caudâ rubro tinctis	15. <i>simplex</i> .
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{	Corpore, alis et caudâ rubro tinctis	16. <i>rubrotincta</i> .
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{	Corpore, alis et caudâ rubro tinctis	17. <i>rubro-brunnea</i> .
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a". Corpore rubro 18. *eruentata*.

γ. Corpore subtus nigro et rubro vario.

a. Gulâ coccineâ.

b. Capite toto coccineo.

c. Abdomine rubro; crisso nigro 19. *rubratra*.

c'. Abdomine et crisso nigris.

d. Pectore coccineo	{	20. <i>nigriventris</i> .
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d'. Pectore nigro	{	21. <i>cardinalis</i> .
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b'. Capite suprâ nigro	{	22. <i>lifuensis</i> .
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a'. Capite toto nigro	{	23. <i>chermesina</i> .
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B. Corpore nigro alboque vario.

{	Gulâ uropygioque nigris	24. <i>rosenbergi</i> .
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{	Gulâ uropygioque albis.....	25. <i>nigra</i> .
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{	Gulâ uropygioque albis.....	26. <i>pectoralis</i> .
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1. MYZOMELA SANGUINOLENTA.

? *Scarlet Creeper*, Lath. Gen. Syn. i. pt. 2, p. 740 (1782).

? *Certhia rubra*, Gmel. S. N. i. p. 479 (1788).

Sanguineous Creeper, Lath. Gen. Syn. Suppl. ii. p. 167, t. 130 (1801).

Certhia sanguinolenta, Lath. Ind. Orn. Suppl. p. xxxvii (1801).

Cochineal Creeper, Lath. Gen. Syn. Suppl. ii. p. 167 (1801).

Certhia dibapha, Lath. Ind. Orn. Suppl. p. xxxvii (1801).

Red-rumped Creeper, Lath. Gen. Syn. Suppl. ii. p. 169 (1801).

Certhia erythropygia, Lath. Ind. Orn. Suppl. p. xxxviii (1801).

Certhia australasiæ, Leach, Zool. Misc. i. p. 30, t. 11 (1814).

Myzomela cardinalis, V. & H. (nec Gm.), Linn. Trans. xv. p. 316 (1826).

Myzomela sanguinolenta, Gld. B. A. iv. pl. 63; id. Handb. B. A. i. p. 555.

♂ ad. *capite, dorso cum uropygio, pectore et lateribus abdominis coccineis; macula anteoculari, alis caudaque nigris; alarum tectricibus conspicue albido, remigibus olivaceo-griseo limbatis; abdomine sordide flavido; subcaudalibus griseo alboque variis; rostro nigro, pedibus corneis. Long. al. 2.4, caud. 1.6, rostr. 0.45, tars. 0.5 (poll. Angl.).*

♀ *sordide griseo-brunnea, subtus dilutior; dorso et uropygio rufescenti tinctis; alis caudaque fuscis, remigibus olivaceo, tectricibus alarum pallide brunneo marginatis.*

Hab. in Australiâ.

The phases of plumage in this species, the type of the genus (for *M. cardinalis*, apud Vig. & Horsf. *l. s. c.*, is this bird), seem to have caused some confusion amongst the older authors. It seems to me that in all probability Latham's "Scarlet Creeper," on which Gmelin founded *Certhia rubra* in his edition of the 'Systema Naturæ,' really applies to this species, the description "lower part of belly and vent white," together with the size ("of a Wren") and the locality ("from some part of the South Seas") quite coinciding with this bird, and not at all with *M. cardinalis*, of which, in his Ind. Orn. (i. p. 290, 1790), Latham treated it as being the female. Besides this, Latham bestowed at least three other Latin names (each with its equivalent vernacular) on this little bird.

Myzomela sanguinolenta is perhaps most nearly allied to *M. chloroptera*, which differs, however, as below pointed out. Only the males possess the beautiful red plumage; and in these, if not quite adult, the variegation of each breast-feather, which is grey at the base, then paler, and red only at the tip, produces the somewhat mottled appearance of the red underparts.

According to Mr. Gould, the irides are "dark brown."

Myzomela sanguinolenta is the commonest species of *Myzomela* in Australia, and is familiarly known to the colonists as the "Little Soldier." Mr. Ramsay, in his list of Australian Birds (Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. ii. 1877), records it from Rockingham Bay, Port Denison, the Wide-Bay District, the Richmond- and Clarence-

River Districts, New S. Wales, the interior, Victoria, and S. Australia; so that it ranges over the greater part of Eastern Australia.

Mr. Ramsay has given us a good account of the habits and nesting of this species near Sydney, where it is a summer visitor, arriving in October and November, in 'The Ibis' for 1865 (p. 304).

2. MYZOMELA CALEDONICA, n. sp.

Myzomela sanguinolenta (ex Novâ Caledoniâ) auct.

♂ *præcedenti simillima, sed tectricibus alarum marginibus albidis carens.*

Hab. in Novâ Caledoniâ.

Mus. H. B. Tristram.

The *Myzomela* from New Caledonia, although no doubt very closely allied to the preceding Australian species, is, I think, fairly entitled to rank as a distinct species; and I have therefore separated it under the above name. My attention was first directed to this form by a specimen kindly lent me by Canon Tristram, and shot by Mr. Layard near Noumea. This bird, a fully-plumaged male, differs from a considerable number of Australian specimens with which I have compared it, in the almost entire absence of the conspicuous greyish-white margins to the feathers of the wing-coverts, so that they are nearly entirely black, with only a trace of *olive-colour* at the margins. Besides this, the red colour of the body is hardly so bright, and extends a little further down on the abdomen, and the margins to the quills are more of an olive-yellow. The size is about the same (wing 2·25), Australian specimens varying a little in this respect. Canon Tristram writes me that he has six specimens of the New-Caledonian bird, and that the differences which I pointed out to him are constant in the series. Mr. Layard gives the following notes as to the soft parts on the label of his specimen:—"Beak black, legs brown-black, iris brown."

Mr. Layard also met with a *Myzomela*, which he referred to *M. sanguinolenta* (Ibis, 1878, p. 280), in the New Hebrides, on the islands of Vatè, Api, and Mallikollo, and remarks that a specimen procured is identical with the New-Caledonian bird; so that it seems probable that *M. caledonica* may extend its range as far as these islands; but specimens to show this are as yet wanting.

3. MYZOMELA CHLOROPTERA. (Plate XXIV. fig. 1.)

Myzomela chloroptera, Wald. Ann. N. H. 4th ser. ix. p. 399 (1872); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. vii. p. 662 (1875).

♂ ad. *capite, dorso uropygionique, cum pectore, coccineis; corpore subtus griseo-flavido; alis caudaque fuscis, remigibus et tectricibus alarum olivaceo limbatis, subalaribus et margine interna remigum albis; alæ flexura flavo-albida; macula anteoculari nigra; rostro nigricante, pedibus obscure corneis. Long. al. 2·2, caud. 1·5, rostr. ·55, tars. ·50 (poll. Angl.).*

Hab. in insulâ Celebes.

This *Myzomela*, the westernmost of the whole genus, was described by the late Lord Tweeddale from imperfect specimens collected by

Dr. Meyer at Menado, where it has also been obtained by Bruijn's collectors; and from one of these specimens, kindly lent me by Count Salvadori, the figure is taken. As yet, I believe, it has only occurred near Menado; and the young and female remain unknown, or at least undescribed.

Myzomela chloroptera resembles the Australian *M. sanguinolenta*, but is a smaller bird, and also differs in the smaller extent of the red on the chest, and in that colour being more intense, the abdomen yellower, and the wings and tail not so black. The black anteocular spot is less conspicuous.

In his original description Lord Tweeddale remarks that this bird nearly resembles plate 54 of the 'Oiseaux Dorés,' vol. ii., representing "L'Heorotaire écarlate" from the "South Seas," taken from a drawing of a bird in the Leverian Museum. The figure certainly corresponds very fairly with this species, but, from the locality given, is probably intended for the Australian one (*M. sanguinolenta*).

4. MYZOMELA ADOLPHINÆ. (Plate XXIV. fig. 3.)

Myzomela adolphinæ, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. vii. p. 946 (1875).

♂ *pallio, dorso superiore, alis caudaque olivaceo-fuscis, tectricibus alarum, remigibus et rectricibus externe subtiliter olivaceo limbatis; capite uropygioque coccineis; macula anteoculari nigra; corpore subtus flavido-albido, pectore grisescenti lavato; subalaribus et remigum margine interna albis; rostro nigricante, pedibus corneis. Long. tot. circa 3.5, al. 2.2, caud. 1.5, rostr. .45, tars. .5 (poll. Angl.).*

♀ *minor, feminae Myzomelæ boiæi similis.*

Hab. in montibus Arfak.

This is one of the numerous discoveries of Beccari and Bruijn in the Arfak Mountains, and only a few specimens have as yet been obtained. Count Salvadori writes (*l. s. c.*):—"This species resembles *M. erythrocephala* of Gould, but differs from it in its much smaller dimensions, by the very slight olive tint of the back, and by the lower parts being not grey-brown, but whitish, very slightly tinged with yellowish on the breast and abdomen." The female resembles that of the Banda species (*M. boiæi*), but differs as pointed out under that species (*vide infra*).

The figure (Pl. XXIV. fig. 3) represents an adult male, one of the types of this species, most obligingly lent me by Count Salvadori.

5. MYZOMELA BOIÆI.

Myzomela boiei, Sal. Müll. Verh., Land-en Volkenk. p. 172 (1839-44); *id.* Verh., Zool. Aves, p. 66, t. 10. figs. 1, 2.

♂ *capite, dorso uropygioque coccineis, plumis ad basin nigris; macula anteoculari, alis caudaque, cum torque pectorali nigris; corpore subtus griseo-albo; subalaribus et remigum margine interna albis; rostro nigro; pedibus corneis, plantis flavis. Long. al. 2.2, caud. 1.8, rostr. .5, tarsi .6 (poll. Angl.).*

♀ *minor, capite pectoreque sordide griseis olivaceo lavatis; dorso,*

tetricibus alarum et uropygio brunneis; fronte anguste gulaque rubris; alis caudaque fuscis, pennis anguste flavido limbatis; abdomine et subcaudalibus flavo-albidis; rostro pedibusque corneis.

Hab. in insulâ Banda.

This species is confined to the island of Banda, where it is not uncommon, according to Müller, in the nutmeg-plantations. The male resembles *M. erythrocephala* (ex insulis Aru), but differs from it in the black and white colours being purer and more contrasted. The female is extremely like that of *M. adolphinæ*, but is smaller, has the breast greyer, the forehead redder, and the yellowish-olive margins to the quills more conspicuous.

The iris is "brown" (*S. Müller; Murray*).

6. MYZOMELA ERYTHROCEPHALA.

Myzomela erythrocephala, Gould, P. Z. S. 1839, p. 144; id. B. A. iv. pl. 64; id. Handb. B. A. i. p. 556 (nec Meyer, Sitzungsber. Wien. Akad. lxx. pp. 204-206).

♂ *capite, dorso inferiore et uropygio intense coccineis; pallio, dorso superiore, alis caudaque cum torque pectorali fuliginosis, remigibus subtilissime olivaceo limbatis; abdomine et subcaudalibus sordide olivacco-griseis; subalaribus et margine interna remigum albis; macula anteoculari nigra; rostro nigricante, pedibus nigro-corneis. Long. tota circa 4.0, al. 2.4, caud. 1.75, rostr. .55, tars. .55 (poll. Angl.).*

Hab. in Australiâ septentrionali, insulis Aru, et Novâ Guineâ meridionali.

There is some doubt as to the exact range of this species, and as to whether one or more species have not been included by various writers under the same name. Unfortunately I have not been able to see a sufficient number of specimens to clear up the question, the solution of which must wait till a larger series from different parts becomes available for comparison.

Myzomela erythrocephala was first described by Mr. Gould from specimens from Port Essington, and was characterized as "*intense fusca, capite et uropygio coccineis.*" This description agrees well enough with the figures in his folio work, and with the skins in the British Museum from Aru collected by Wallace. In the text, however, as also in the 'Handbook,' the general colour of the plumage is described as "deep chocolate-brown," a term which can hardly be said to agree either with "*intense fusca*" or with the figures.

In one of his expeditions to Southern New Guinea, Signor D'Albertis obtained a single male (nearly or quite adult) of a *Myzomela* at Mon, Hall Bay, of which Count Salvadori, in the account of the collection (Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. vii. p. 825, 1875), says that it in no way differs from one from Australia with which he has compared it, and further remarks that Gould's plate is inaccurate in representing the back &c. as almost black, instead of only slightly darker than the under surface. In a letter to me, however, he says that now he is "not quite satisfied as to this bird being the same as the Australian species; this and the Aru bird seem to me much

darker," and further proposes to separate it and the Aru form as a new species, *Myzomela infuscata*. But the bird from Mon, which Count Salvadori has most kindly lent me, differs from the Aru birds in its much lighter colours above, which are moderately dark greyish brown, not brownish black, and in the dark colour on the breast shading off more gradually into that of the flanks and abdomen, so that there is less appearance of a dark pectoral band. The antecular spot is brown. The size is about the same as that of the bird described above (from a specimen in Mr. Godman's collection, collected by Cockerell, and agreeing with Wallace's Aru skin in the British Museum): Not having seen an authenticated adult Australian specimen, I cannot say whether the New-Guinea bird is or is not identical with that from Australia; but it certainly differs considerably from the Aru birds in colour. If on further investigation the Aru bird proves really distinct, it will have to stand as *Myzomela infuscata*, Salvad. in litt. On the other hand, if Mr. Gould's figure and description are correct, it would seem that the bird from Southern New Guinea is distinct. I have not seen the female of this species. Mr. Gould describes it as "uniform brown above, lighter beneath."¹ Count Salvadori describes the female of *M. infuscata* thus:—"Brunneo-grisea, subtus pallidior, fronte et gula late rubris; remigibus exterius subtiliter olivaceo-marginatis;" and this description closely agrees with a young male from the Aru Islands in the British Museum, in which, however, there are also some red feathers on the back.

Gould gives the irides as "reddish brown," D'Albertis as "black." In Australia, *Myzomela erythrocephala* is confined to the northern districts, having occurred at Port Essington (Gould), Port Darwin (Masters), and Cape York (Ramsay's list of Australian birds). It was included in Marie's list of New Caledonian birds (Ibis, 1877, p. 362), but is omitted by Verreaux and Desmurs, and Mr. Layard has as yet not found it. M. Oustalet, too, tells me that he has not seen it from the mainland of New Caledonia.

7. MYZOMELA VULNERATA.

Nectarinia (Myzomela) vulnerata, Müll. Verh., Land- en Volk. p. 172 (1839-44); id. Verh., Zool. pl. 10. figs. 3, 4.

Fusco-nigricans, capitis supra macula magna, gula et uropygio sanguineis; abdomine, subcaudalibus, subalaribus, et margine remigum interna albis; rostro nigro, pedibus plumbeis. Long. al. 2.2, caud. 2, rostr. .5, tars. .53 (poll. Angl.).

Hab. in insulâ Timor.

This very distinct species is confined to the island of Timor. It is somewhat allied to *M. boicæ* and *erythrocephala*, but is at once distinguished from both by the red on the head being confined to the vertex and throat, and by the much darker tint of that colour. The female is similar to the male, but smaller, with the colours less distinct. The irides are reddish brown (*Sal. Müller*).

¹ In the plate the forehead is shown as tinged with red.

8. MYZOMELA JUGULARIS.

Myzomela jugularis, Peale, U.S. Expl. Exped. p. 151, t. 41. f. 2 (1848); Cassin, U.S. Expl. Exped. p. 176, t. 12. f. 2 (jr.) (1858); H. & F. Orn. Centr.-Pol. p. 54, t. 7. figs. 1, 2 (ad. et jr.).

Myzomela solitaria, Hombr. & Jacq. Voy. Pôle Sud, Zool. iii. p. 99, Atlas, t. 22. f. 6 (1853).

Ad. *fusco-nigricans*, *subtus flavescenti-albida*, *mento, gula, maculaque magna occipitali cum uropygio coccineis; gutture croceo-flavo; remigibus, primis duobus exceptis, et tetricibus alarum majoribus flavido marginatis; reatricibus, duabus mediis exceptis, tetricibusque alæ minoribus nonnullis ad apicem albis; rostro nigro, pedibus corneis. Long. al. 2.45, caud. 1.6, rostr. .6, tarsi .55 (poll. Angl.).*

Jr. *macula occipitali nulla, gutture sordide flavo, et uropygio brunneo-olivaceo distinguenda.*

Hab. in insulis Vitiensibus.

This *Myzomela* hardly admits of being mistaken for any other species. It is perhaps most nearly related to *M. lafargii* of the Solomon Islands, but is at once distinguishable from that species by the red throat and orange-yellow chest, besides other differences. The red of the throat is separated from the yellow of the chest by a distinct though narrow black line. The red on the back appears last, that on the chin first. In not fully plumaged birds the rump and lower back are olivaceous. The sexes when adult are nearly alike, the female being only distinguishable by the colours being less bright. Very often, too, though not always, the red occipital spot is absent in the female.

Mr. Murray records the iris as "black," Mr. Layard as "brown," the legs being "verditer" and "dark livid" in the living bird, with the soles of the feet yellow.

This bird is entirely confined to the Fijis, where, according to Mr. Layard's list (*Ibis*, 1876, p. 391), it is found in all the larger islands of that group¹; and in addition to the islands enumerated by him, specimens from Matuku are in the British Museum (*Rayner*). Its occurrence in the Samoan group has not yet been confirmed (cf. Whitmee, *Ibis*, 1875, p. 447). Hombron & Jacquinot indicated their "*Myzomèle solitaire*" as being from the "Iles Salomon" with some doubt; and, relying on them, Mr. Selater included "*M. solitaria*" in his list of Solomon-Island Birds (P. Z. S. 1869, p. 124), where, however, only *M. lafargii*, so far as is yet known, occurs.

9. MYZOMELA LAFARGII.

Myzomela lafargei, Hombr. & Jacq. Voy. Pôle Sud, Zool. iii. p. 98, t. 22. f. 5 (1853).

Corpore supra cum capite, gutture et pectore superiore nigris; occipite coccineo; abdomine flavido-olivaceo; alis caudaque nigris,

See also P. Z. S. 1875, p. 431, for an interesting account of its habits.

remigibus olivaceo-limbatis, subalaribus albis; rostro nigro, pedibus plumbeis.

Hab. in insulis Salomonis.

This species was obtained by the French Expedition to the South Pole; and the type specimen in the Paris Museum remains, I believe, unique in Europe. M. Oustalet, to whom I wrote for information about it, kindly replies to me, on comparing it with the figure in the Atlas to the 'Voyage':—"Je trouve dans celle-ci quelques inexactitudes. Les proportions de l'oiseau ont été un peu exagérées: le noir de la gorge a été trop étendu et trop marqué. L'oiseau type est plus petit, et il a le haut de la gorge seulement noir, le bas, vers la poitrine, étant un peu mêlé de jaune verdâtre."

M. lafargii is somewhat allied to *M. jugularis* of the Fijis, but differs from the latter in having the red confined to the top of the head, and in the throat and chest being black.

10. MYZOMELA SCLATERI, sp. n. (Plate XXV. fig. 2.)

♂ *corpore supra, alis caudaque fusco-nigricantibus, capite saturatiore, plumis dorsi inferioris apice flavidis; remigibus, alarum tectricibus et rectricibus externe olivaceo-flavo limbatis; gula splendide coccinea; corpore subtus griseo-flavido, gutture sordidiore; subalaribus et margine interna remigum albis; rostro nigro, pedibus obscuris. Long. tot. circa 4.5, al. 3.65, caud. 1.7, rostr. .6, tars. .55 (poll. Angl.).*

Hab. in Novâ Britannîâ.

A few weeks ago Mr. Sclater, after whom I propose to name this new species, lent me for examination a single specimen of it, marked male, which he had recently received in a letter together with two *Pachycephalæ*, from the Rev. G. Brown, C.M.Z.S., of the Wesleyan Mission at present established on the Duke-of-York Islands. The exact locality given on the label is "Palaküru Island, New-Britain coast." I have not been able to find Palaküru Island on any map; but it is probably only an islet lying close to the shores of the larger island.

At first I had some doubts as to this individual being adult; but now, from the absence of red feathers on any other part, and from the singularly bright and shining colour of those on the throat, I have little doubt that it has very nearly or quite attained its full plumage. *Myzomela sclateri* hardly admits of being compared with any other species of the group, the entirely dark upperside and the red being confined to the throat rendering it quite unlike any species yet known to us.

11. MYZOMELA NIGRITA.

Myzomela nigrita, G. R. Gray, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 173; Salvadori, P. Z. S. 1878, p. 97.

Myzomela erythrocephala, Meyer (nec Gould), Sitzungsber. Wien. Akad. lxx. p. 204 (1874).

Myzomela meyeri, Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. vii. p. 947 (1875).

♂ *nitenti-niger, subalaribus et remigum margine interna albis; rostro nigro, pedibus corneis.*

♀ *grisco-brunnea, subtus dilutior; fronte gulaque rubro lavatis; remigibus externe olivaceis.*

Hab. in Novâ Guineâ occidentali et insulis vicinis.

This *Myzomela*, conspicuous for the almost entirely black plumage of the adult male, was first described by the late Mr. Gray from specimens collected in the Aru Islands by Wallace, where it was obtained again during the recent voyage of the 'Challenger.' It also occurs on the mainland of the north-western peninsula of New Guinea, at Dorey (*Wallace*) and Rubi (*Meyer*), and in the islands of Jobi and Miosnom (*Meyer* and *Beccari*), the birds from the mainland and these islands being considerably bigger than those from Aru. This is particularly the case with those from Jobi and Miosnom, so that Count Salvadori is inclined to separate them as a new species. But, as the following table will show, considerable differences in the measurements of this species occur in various localities; so that at present I consider it better to retain all forms under one name.

	Wing.	Tail.	Beak (from fore- head).	Tarsi.	
1. ♂. Aru?	2.2	1.65	.55	.5	
2. ♂. Wokan	2.4	1.65	.55	.5	
3. ♂. Aru	2.35	1.7	—	.5	
4. ♂. Rubi.	2.5	2.0	.65	.5	
5. ♂. Dorey	2.4	1.8	.65	—	
6. ♂. Miosnom	2.7	2.0	.65	.5	} " <i>M. pluto</i> ," Salvadori, in litt.
7. ♂. Jobi	2.5	2.0	.67	.5	
8. ♂ jr. Miosnom	2.6	1.7	.67	.53	
9. ♂ jr. Rubi	2.3	1.8	.6	.53	
10. ♂ jr. Rubi.	2.3	1.8	.58	.5	
11. ♀. Rubi.	2.1	1.65	.55	.45	
12. ♀. Aru?	2.1	1.4	.55	.45	

The male of this species resembles that of *Myzomela pammelaena* from the Admiralty Islands, but differs as below specified. The female retains more of the normal colouring of the group, and approaches those of *M. boiaei* and *M. adolphinae*. The young birds resemble the female, the red on the head in the young males being obtained before any indication of the black plumage. Dr. Meyer obtained only females and young of this bird, and referred these with considerable hesitation to *M. erythrocephala* of Gould, a very different species. Count Salvadori saw that this was a mistake, and proposed the name *meyeri* for the specimens collected by Dr. Meyer. But on subsequently examining the birds at Dresden, he found that in reality they were the young and females of the present species, the female having been only briefly indicated in Gray's original description.

Mr. Murray notes of a male from Wokan, Aru Islands, that the eyes are "hazel," the "bill and feet black."

12. MYZOMELA PAMMELÆNA.

Myzomela pammelæna, Selat. P. Z. S. 1877, p. 553.

♂ ad. *nigerrimus*, *remigum marginibus internis cineraceo-albidis*, *rostro pedibusque nigris*. Long. tot. circa 5, al. 2·7, caud. 2, rostr. ·65, tars. ·65 (poll. Angl.)

Jun. *præcedenti similis, sed omnino sordidior, abdomine et sub-caudalibus rufo-tinctis, et subalaribus albis distincta.*

Hab. in insulis Admiralitatis.

Two specimens, an adult male and a young bird, of this *Myzomela* were obtained during the stay of the 'Challenger' at Nares Harbour, Admiralty Islands. It is closely allied to *Myzomela nigrita* of the Aru Islands and New Guinea; but the adult male of the new species differs from the more western one by its *black* under wing-coverts (although these are *white* in the young bird), dirty white margins to the remiges, and longer and stouter feet and tarsi. In size it exceeds any specimens I have seen of *M. nigrita* from the Aru Islands, but is equalled in length of wing and tail by the larger birds from the islands and shores of Geelvink Bay.

Mr. Murray marks the irides of the adult bird as "hazel-brown."

13. MYZOMELA EQUES.

Cinnyris eques, Less. Voy. Coq. p. 679, t. 31. fig. 1 (1826).

Nectarinia eques, Müll. & Schleg. Verhand. p. 62 (1839-1844).

Cosmeteira eques, Meyer, Sitzungsber. Wien. Akad. lxx. pp. 215-217 (1874).

Cosmeteira minima, Wald. Ibis, 1870, p. 50 (♀).

Omnino cinerascens-brunnea, subtus dilutior; stria gulari nitide coccinea; rostro pedibusque nigro-corneis. Long. al. 3, caud. 2·5, tarsi ·6 (poll. Angl.). (♂ ex Novâ Guineâ.)

Hab. in Novâ Guineâ et insulis vicinis.

Although generally placed amongst the Nectariniidæ, this species in structure and coloration is a true *Myzomela*, allied to the Australian *M. obscura*, from which it is at once distinguished by its bright red gular streak. The sexes are similar; but the females are considerably smaller than the males; and on one of these from Mysol the late Lord Tweeddale founded his species *C. minima*.

Dr. Meyer describes (*l. s. c.*) the young as having the forehead and top of the head tinged with reddish—an interesting fact, as showing in the young bird a style of coloration not retained in the adult, but occurring in other members of the genus, and therefore probably a more primitive character.

This species is widely distributed over New Guinea, occurring at Dorey (*Wallace and Meyer*), Rubi, Passim (*Meyer*), Sorong (*Mus. Lugd.*, fide *Salvadori*), and Wa Samson (*Beccari*); and D'Albertis found it on the Fly River. It also occurs in Waigiou (*Lesson, Wallace, and Bernstein*) and Mysol (*Wallace and Hoedt*). Count *Salvadori*

has lent me specimens from Salwatti, and says that in the Leyden Museum there is one said to be from Ceram (*Moens*), but that this locality, as well as Gilolo (*Forsten*), are in all probability errors.

14. MYZOMELA OBSCURA.

Myzomela obscura, Gould, P. Z. S. 1842, p. 136; id. B. A. iv. pl. 67; id. Handb. i. p. 559.

Ptilotis fumata, "Müll. Mus. Lugd., ex Nova Guinea," Bp. Consp. i. p. 392 (1850).

Omnino griseo-brunnea, subtus pallidior, capite vinaceo tincto; remigibus externe subtilissime griseo limbatis; alis caudaque subtus griseis, remigum margine interna albida; rostro pedibusque nigro-corneis. Long. al. 2·7, caud. 2·2, rostr. ·6, tars. ·6 (poll. Angl.).

Hab. in Australiâ septentrionali et Novâ Guineâ.

This plainly-coloured Honey-eater was first described by Mr. Gould from specimens obtained at Port Essington by Gilbert. It seems to have rather a wide range over the northern parts of Australia, occurring at Port Darwin (*Masters*), Cape York ('*Challenger*'), and in the north of Queensland "as far south as the Mary river" (*Ramsay*). D'Albertis found it at Naiabui and on the Fly River; and there are specimens from the river Utanata in the Leyden Museum—the originals of Bonaparte's "*Ptilotis fumata*" (cf. Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. xii. p. 334, 1878).

The sexes are similar. I have not seen young birds.

The iris has been variously recorded as "red" (*Gould*), "brown" (*Murray*), and "black" (*D'Albertis*).

15. MYZOMELA SIMPLEX.

Myzomela simplex, G. R. Gray, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 349.

Sordide griseo-brunnea, subtus dilutior; remigibus et rectricibus rubido limbatis; margine interna remigum albida; rostro pedibusque corneis, his pallidioribus. Long. tot. 5·2, al. 2·3. caud. 2, rostr. ·5, tarsi ·6 (poll. Angl.).

Hab. in Halmaherâ et insulis adjacentibus.

This plainly-coloured *Myzomela* was first discovered by Wallace in the island of Batchian, and it also occurs in most of the other islands of the Halmahera group of the Moluccas, but is replaced on Obi by the nearly allied *Myzomela rubroincta*. Count Salvadori informs me that he has seen "many specimens in the Leyden Museum from Gilolo (*Bernstein*), Tidore (*Bernstein, Von Rosenberg*), and Dammar (*Bernstein*). A specimen from Ternate (*Bruijn*) is in Turati's collection. A single specimen from Morty in the Museum of Leyden is much darker than the others."

This species is allied to *M. rubrobrunnea* and *M. rubroincta*, but differs from them in the less extent of the red colour, which is confined to the margins of the quills and tail-feathers. The sexes are probably similar in colour; I have not seen the young bird.

16. MYZOMELA RUBROTINCTA.

Myzomela rubrotincta, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov. xii. p. 344 (1878).

“*Brunnea, dorso, alis et cauda pulcherrime rubro tinctis; pectore, abdomine et subcaudalibus obsoletius rubro tinctis. Long. tot. 120 m., alæ .067, caud. .048, rostri .020, tars. .020.*”

Hab. “in ins. Obi (Bernstein),” Salvad. l. c.

This species has recently been described by Count Salvadori from five specimens—two males and three females—the two sexes are similar—in the Leyden Museum. He says it “resembles *M. simplex* of Gray from Halmahera, in which only the remiges and rectrices (and not all the parts between the head and neck) are margined with red, and in which the red colour is very indistinct.”

17. MYZOMELA RUBROBRUNNEA. (Plate XXIV. fig. 2.)

Myzomela rubrobrunnea, Meyer, Sitzungsber. Ak. in Wien, lxx. p. 203 (1874).

♂ *grisescenti-brunneus, subtus dilutior, capite saturatiore, plumis plus minusve vinaceo limbatis; dorso inferiore et uropygio, cum marginibus externis remigum et rectricum vinaceo-rubris; alis caudaque subtus griseis; margine interna remigum albida; rostro pedibusque nigro-corneis. Long. tota circa 4, alæ 2.4, caud. 1.8, rostr. .6, tars. .55 (poll. Angl.).*

♀ *mari similis, sed coloribus minus intensis et paullo minor.*

Hab. in insulâ Mysore.

Dr. Meyer first discovered this beautiful species of *Myzomela*, during his travels in and about New Guinea in 1873. He obtained only two specimens, both males, at Kordo, the chief settlement in the island of Mysore in Geelvink Bay. Beccari obtained others in the same island, to which it is apparently confined; and from one of his specimens, a fine male, kindly lent me by Count Salvadori, the figure is taken.

This species resembles *M. simplex* and *M. rubrotincta* of the Moluccas, but differs from both in the red margins to the feathers being continued over a larger part of the bird.

18. MYZOMELA CRUENTATA.

Myzomela cruentata, Meyer, Sitzungsber. Ak. Wien, lxx. i. p. 202 (1874); Gould, B. New Guin. pl. pt. v.

Myzomela coccinea, Ramsay, Proc. L. S. N. S. W. ii. p. 106 (1877)? (Ex insulis Ducis Eboraci.)

Myzomela erythrina, Ramsay, Proc. L. S. N. S. W. ii. p. 107 (1877)? (Ex Novâ Hiberniâ.)

♂ *corpore omnino chermesino, uropygio splendidiore, plumis ad basin nigris; alis rubricantibus, plumis externe rubris; remigibus fuscis, primis duobus exceptis, rubro limbatis; rectricibus rubido-griseis, externe rubro marginatis; alis caudaque subtus*

griseis; *rostro pedibusque nigris*. Long. tot. circa 4, al. 2·2, caud. 1·5, rostr. ·55, tars. ·5 (poll. Angl.)

Hab. in montibus Arfak Novæ Guineæ.

This very beautiful *Myzomela*, at once distinguished from all others of this group yet described by its uniformly red colour, was first obtained by Dr. Meyer, in the Arfak Mountains in 1873. Only one specimen, an adult male, was procured; and this and another specimen, likewise a male and nearly or quite adult, procured by Bruijn's collectors in the same locality, and now in the Genoa Museum, are, I believe, the only examples yet brought to Europe of this splendid little bird.

A short time ago Mr. E. P. Ramsay, of the Sydney Museum, described two new species of *Myzomela*, both remarkable for their nearly uniform red coloration. One is indicated as a female and from the Duke-of-York Islands (*M. coccinea*); the other, a young male, (*M. erythrina*) is from New Ireland. Of it Mr. Ramsay says:—"This species is smaller than the preceding, and the bill is comparatively stronger and stouter; otherwise I should be inclined to consider it the young of the former." From his description it is evidently a young bird; and after having carefully compared both it and that of the other species with Dr. Meyer's and Count Salvadori's specimens, I have come to the conclusion that both *M. coccinea* and *erythrina* are probably referable to *M. cruentata*. If this is so, it would seem, provided Ramsay's specimens are correctly sexed, that the adults of this species are nearly or quite similar in coloration. The species probably has a wide range through New Guinea eastward of the Arfak Mountains.

19. MYZOMEZA RUBRATRA.

Cinnyris rubrater, Less. Voy. Coquille, Zool. p. 678 (1826); id. Man. ii. p. 55 (1828); Kittlitz, Kupf. Vög. t. 8. fig. 1 (1832).

Myzomela rubratra, Bp. C. R. xxxviii. p. 263, 1854; Hartl. P. Z. S. 1868, p. 5; Hartl. & Finsch, P. Z. S. 1872, p. 94; Finsch, Journ. God. Mus. xii. p. 26 (1876).

Myzomela major, Bp. C. R. xxxviii. p. 263 (1854). (Ins. Carol.)

Myzomelu sanguinolenta, pt., Gray (nec Lath.), Gen. B. i. p. 118; Bp. Consp. i. p. 394 (1850).

Ad. *coccinea*, *alis*, *cauda*, *crisso et subcaudalibus nigricantibus*; *alis caudaque subtus griseis*, *remigum margine interna albida*; *rostro nigricante*, *pedibus corneis*. Long. al. 2·95, caud. 2·3, rostr. ·65, tars. ·75, (poll. Angl.).

Jr. *olivaceo-brunnea*, *remigibus externe olivaceis*; *subalaribus obscuris*.

Hab. in insulis Pelewensibus, Marianis, et Carolinis.

This species belongs to the group of *M. cardinalis*, *nigriventris*, and *chermcsina*, but is at once distinguished from all of these by the greater extent of the red colour in the adult, only the vent and under tail-coverts being black.

Myzomela major was founded by Bonaparte on specimens of this bird from the Caroline Islands, and characterized as "*Similis M.*

rubratra, *sed major et percoccinea*." But any such difference in size is not constant, and Dr. Hartlaub says (*l. c.*) that Pelew birds are as large as Caroline ones.

The young bird is nearly uniformly dark olive-brown, and gradually attains its full plumage by the gradual appearance of the red on various parts of its body.

M. rubratra is remarkable for its wide range over the archipelagos of the North-eastern Pacific. Lesson found it on the island of Ualan in the east of the Caroline group (his assertion that it was also found in the Philippines by M. Dussumier being of course erroneous), as did Kittlitz, who gives an interesting account of the habits of this species as observed by him on this island and the Marianne Island of Guam (Denkwürd. ein. Reise, i. pp. 364 and 381, 1858). Kubary found it on Ponapè in the east, and on Yap and the Mackenzie Islands in the west, of the Carolines; so that it is probably found all over that archipelago. Specimens from these islands are in the Godeffroy Museum; likewise examples from the Pelews (or Palaos). Gray, in his Catalogue of Pacific birds, gives "Island of Vanicoro" with a query; but in all probability this is a mistake, for as yet no *Myzomela* has been found there.

20. MYZOMELA NIGRIVENTRIS.

Myzomela nigriventris, Peale, U.S. Expl. Exped. p. 150, pl. 41. f. 2 (1848); Cassin, U.S. Expl. Exped. p. 175, pl. 12. f. i. (1858); H. & F. Orn. Centralpolyn. p. 56, t. 7. f. 3 and 4 (ad. and jr.).

Myzomela rubratra Hartl. (nec Lesson), Wiegmann. Arch. 1852, p. 130 (ex Samoa).

Myzomela cardinalis Hartl. (nec Gmel.), Wiegmann. Arch. 1852, p. 109.

"*Myzomela arnouxi*, Verr.," Bonaparte, C. R. xxxviii. p. 263 (1854).

Ad. *capite, dorso uropygioque cum pectore fulgido-coccineis, plumis ad basin nigris; corpore subtus, macula anteoculari, alis caudaque nigris; remigibus interne albidis; rostro pedibusque nigris. Long. al. 2.75, caud. 1.8, rostr. .65, tars. .7 (poll. Angl.).*

Jr. *olivaceo-fusca, subtus dilutior et flavido lavata; uropygio rubro tincto; remigibus olivaceo-limbatis; subalaribus et margine interna remigum albis.*

Hab. in insulis Samoensibus.

This species is very closely allied to *M. cardinalis*, which it replaces in the Samoa group. The differences between the two I have pointed out under the last-named species.

From *M. rubratra*, with which it was at first confounded, both these species differ in the black flanks and belly, these in *M. rubratra* being red, only the vent and under tail-coverts being black, whilst the red on the chest in all three of these species easily separates them from *M. lifuensis*.

M. nigriventris is confined to the Samoan Islands, its reported occurrence in the Fijis being erroneous (cf. Layard, Ibis, 1876, p. 391)

and founded on a mistake of Dr. Gräffe. It is apparently rather a common bird in the Samoan group, occurring both on Savaii and Upolu.

21. MYZOMELA CARDINALIS.

Cardinal Creeper, Lath. Gen. Syn. i. pt. 2, p. 733, pl. 33. f. 2 (1782).

Certhia cardinalis, Gm. S. N. i. p. 472 (1788); Lath. Ind. Orn. i. p. 290 (1790).

Cardinal Honey-eater, Lath. Nat. Hist. iv. p. 199, pl. 71. f. 2 (1822).

Myzomela cardinalis, Gray, B. Trop. Isl. p. 10 (1859); Tristram, Ibis, 1876, p. 261.

Myzomela melanogastra, Bp. C. R. xxxviii. p. 263 (1854).

Ad. capite, dorso uropygioque cum pectore superiore coccineis, plumis ad basin nigris; macula anteoculari, alis caudaque nigris, his nitore nonnullo metallico; corpore subtus fuliginoso-nigro; remigum margine interna albida; rostro pedibusque nigris. Long. al. 2·9, caud. 2·1, rostr. ·7, tars. ·75 (poll. Angl.).

Jr. Myz. nigriventris similis, sed supra magis brunnea, et subtus dilutior; dorso uropygioque castaneo-brunneis, nec rubris.

Hab. in Novis Hebridibus.

This Honey-eater, one of the few of this genus known to the older authors, is very nearly allied to *M. nigriventris* of the Samoan group, which it replaces in the New Hebrides.

The adult bird (I agree with Messrs. Hartlaub and Finsch in considering that in this section of the group the sexes are nearly similar) is distinguished from *M. nigriventris* by the scarlet of the upper parts and chest being duller, and extending not quite so far down on the chest. The black of the lower parts is less intense, being tinged with brownish; the white margin to the remiges internally is more distinct; and the bill is stouter. It is also a slightly larger bird.

The young bird is paler and browner above (not so much dark brown as greyish brown), and paler and yellower below; the rump and back are washed with chestnut-brown. Judging from the series of specimens I have seen, the red colour in this species seems to appear first on the *head*, and not on the *back* as in *M. nigriventris*. The remiges, as usual in the young of this genus, are externally lined with olive-yellow. From *M. lifuensis* this species may be distinguished by its larger size and by the red extending on to the breast. Latham's description and figure clearly apply to this bird, not to *M. lifuensis*.

The irides are marked "black" or "dark brown."

Latham describes this bird from the island of Tanna, where, he says, it is called "Kuyameta" and is common, sucking the juices of flowers; and I have seen specimens collected on that island by Mr. Layard. There are specimens in the British Museum from Erromango and Aneiteum (*Cuming*); and Canon Tristram has received it from the latter island, as well as from Tanna and Aniwa. It thus seems to be confined rather to the southern portion of the New-Hebridean archipelago, being replaced in the north by *M. caledonica*? and *M. chermesina*.

22. MYZOMELA LIFUENSIS.

Myzomela lifuensis, E. L. and L. C. Layard, Ibis, 1878, p. 258.

♂ capite, dorso uropygioque coccineis; alis, cauda et corpore subtus toto cum macula anteoculari fuliginoso-nigris; alis caudaque nitore nonnullo metallico; remigum margine interna albida; rostro nigro, pedibus nigro-corneis. Long. tota circa 4.2, al. 2.5, caud. 1.75, rostr. .55, tars. .68 (poll. Angl.).

Hab. in Lifu, ex insulis "Loyalty" dictis.

Canon Tristram having kindly submitted to me two skins (now in his collection, both marked "males" and adult) collected by the Messrs. Layard, who first indicated this species, I can give a more complete account of it, and say that it is certainly a very good species. It is nearly allied to *M. nigriventris* and *M. cardinalis* of the Samoas and New Hebrides respectively, more particularly to the last, but is at once distinguished from both by the red below not extending beyond the head, the breast being sooty-black like all the rest of the lower parts. It is also a considerably smaller bird; the bill is shorter and more slender; the tarsi are not so stout, and the claws smaller. From *Myzomela erythrocephala* it is easily distinguishable by the uniform black of the lower parts.

Mr. Layard notes the "beak black, legs very dark brown, iris dark brown," and food "insects." Both specimens were obtained at Hepenehe, the chief town in the island of Lifu, the largest of the Loyalty Islands.

Whether *M. erythrocephala* of Marie's list (Ibis, 1877, p. 362) is this bird, remains uncertain; as yet, *M. caledonica* is the only *Myzomela* certainly known to be found on New Caledonia itself.

23. MYZOMELA CHERMESINA. (Plate XXV. fig. 1.)

Myzomela chermesina, Gray & Mitch. G. B. i. pl. 38 (1840) (fig. mala); Gray, Cat. B. Trop. Isl. p. 11 (1859); Forbes, P. Z. S. 1878, p. 352.

♂ ad. fusco-nigricans, alis caudaque nitore nonnullo metallico; mento, gula, pectore lateribusque abdominis, cum dorso uropygioque nitide coccineis, plumis ad basin nigris; subalaribus nigris, remigum pogonio interno griseo; rostro nigro, pedibus brunneo-corneis. Long. tota circa $4\frac{1}{2}$, al. 3, caud. 2, rostri $\frac{5}{8}$, tarsi $\frac{5}{8}$ (poll. Angl.).

Hab. in insulis Pacificis Rotumah et Mallikollo.

This species was first figured by Messrs. Gray and Mitchell in their 'Genera of Birds;' but no description was given, the species being only mentioned in the list of the species of *Myzomela*; nor was any habitat indicated. Bonaparte, and Gray later on, in his 'Hand-list' (vol. i. no. 1989), gave "New Guinea?" as the locality, without any apparent reason for so doing. The bird was never recognized again till last year, when Mr. Sclater received two specimens, an adult male and a nearly adult female¹, from the Rev. G. Brown, C.M.Z.S., of the Wesleyan Mission, together with some other birds, from the small

¹ These birds are now in the Paris Museum.

island of Rotumah, north of the Fijis. Fortunately Gray's type is still in existence in the gallery of the British Museum; and on comparing the birds from Rotumah with it, it was at once evident that they were of the same species, though Gray's figure represents a bird with a uniformly scarlet underside. About the same time Mr. Sharpe got a specimen (from which the figure is taken) of the same bird, apparently identical in every respect, from the island of *Mallikollo* (in my paper, *l. c.*, by a mistake I wrote *Erromango*) in the New Hebrides, where it was obtained by Mr. Wykeham Perry, H.M.S. 'Pearl.' The species thus has a wide range, though I believe the above-mentioned four specimens (which are all nearly or quite adult) are as yet the only ones of this bird ever brought to Europe. The female is similar to the male in colour, but a little duller (*conf. l. c.* p. 353).

24. MYZOMELA ROSENBERGI.

Myzomela rosenbergi, Schleg. Ned. Tijd. Dierk. iv. p. 38 (1871); Rosenberg, Reist. Geelv. Baai, p. 138, t. xvi. fig. 2 (1875); Meyer, Sitzungsber. Wien. Akad. lxxix. i. pp. 211, 212 (1874).

♂ ad. *niger nitore nonnullo metallico; collo, dorso, uropygioue, cum pectore splendide coccineis; rostro nigro, pedibus corneis.*

Long. al. 2.5, caud. 1.7, rostr. a culm. .65, tars. .55 (poll. Angl.).

♀ *rufescenti-brunnea, plumis ad basin nigris, ad rhachin pallidioribus; fronte, pectore uropygioue coccineis, mento gulaque nigricantibus; alis caudaque fuscis, remigibus externe olivaceo-limbatis, tectricum alarum apicibus brunneis; pogoniis internis remigum albis.*

♂ jr. *feminae similis, sed fronte, pectore, uropygio, mento gulaque corpore concoloribus.*

Hab. in Novâ Guineâ.

This beautiful and very distinct *Myzomela* was first described by Prof. Schlegel from two specimens, both males, collected by Von Rosenberg in the north-western peninsula of New Guinea. Dr. A. B. Meyer obtained five specimens from the Arfak Mountains near Hattam, at an elevation of about 3500 feet above the sea, during his expedition to New Guinea in 1873. Since then numerous specimens have been obtained by various travellers in the same district. That the species is not confined, however, to the Arfak Mountains is shown by the fact¹ that Signor D'Albertis obtained two skins of this same bird, identical with Arfak specimens, from the natives of the neighbourhood of Epa, near Hall Bay, S.E. New Guinea.

According to Dr. Meyer the adults of both sexes are similar, and the bird above described as the female (from two nearly identical specimens so sexed by Beccari) is really the young assuming adult plumage. Count Salvadori, however, writes me that he has about 40 specimens of this species, and maintains the view he has already expressed (*Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. vii. p. 947, 1875*), that Meyer's "young" are in reality females. A very young bird (♂) in the

¹ *Cf. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, vii. p. 799 (1875).*